With eifect from 1-4-1999, the scheme has been restructured and it has now become an allocation based scheme. The central share is allocated to the States/ UTs on the basis of proportion of the rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country and funds are released directly to the District Rural Development Agency. The Implementing Authority is the Zilla Parishad. 70% of the funds are allocated to the Panchayat Samities by the Zilla Parishad. 30% remains with the Zilla Parishad. Under the revised scheme, all districts in the country including those of Madhya Pradesh are covered.

Funds under EAS are released for creation of additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual works for the rural poor living below the poverty line. EAS funds could be used for minor irrigation.

Employment generation schemes in Bihar

†2891. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state .

(a)whether Government are aware of the fact that the people of rural areas of Bihar are suflfering for want of employment;

(b)whether Government are going to run a specific scheme or programme to provide employment to the people of rural areas of Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) The Government do not have any such report.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development is already implementing three specific employment generating schemes, namely. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) in the rural areas throughout the country, including Bihar. EAS aims at providing wage employment to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it. The objective of SGSY is to provide sustainable self-employment to the rural poor through establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas. The primary objective of JGSY is the creation of demand driven community village

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

infrastructure including durable assets at the village level to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is the generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas.

Model villages in the States

2892. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that Government are developing model villages in all the States;

(b)if so, the details of the selected villages, State-wise;

(c) whether Soalkuchi village in Kamrup District of Assam has been selected among such villages as a centre of silk industry;

(d) if so, the details of schemes finalised for the same, amount released so far and stage of implementation of such schemes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A, RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Technology Mission on Cotton

2893. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that Government have launched technology mission on cotton;

(b)if so, what are the salient features of the mission; and

(c) what are the objectives and the targets set ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Technology Mission on Cotton Development comprises four Mini Missions with the